

POOR TURNOUT FOR WYCOMBE GAME

THE call of Christmas shops kept the crowd down to about 900 for the Isthmian League contest between leaders Sutton United and third-placed Wycombe Wanderers, who shared the points.

Sutton: Shewring; Gamblin, Taylor; Powell, Gradi, Blunt; Brookes, Bladon, Hutchins, Pritchard, Mellows. Substitute: Hodgson.

Wycombe Wanderers: Maskell; Beck; Roystone; Baker, Rundle, Gale; Worley, Samuels, Bates, Horseman, Merrick. Substitute: Sherbourne.

Referee: J A Crook (Wimbledon)

Sutton had a chance to take an early lead but skipper Powell stood his ground after breaking through to pick up a bad pass from Wycombe winger Worley.

From the start it was obvious that there was a lot of "needle" between the two sides but the referee chose to ignore several incidents. The atmosphere soon improved.

In the eighth minute Wycombe's Maskell made a grand diving save to a fierce drive from Brookes. And a minute later he plucked the ball off

the head of centre forward Hutchins.

Early honours went to Sutton. In the 19th minute Maskell made another good save to a hard shot from Hutchins.

Sutton took a deserved lead on the half-hour when left-half POWELL received a returned pass from Hutchins and flashed the ball past Maskell from close in.

Five minutes later BATES scored a lovely goal to equalise. Merrick had done well to centre after shrugging off a Gradi tackle.

Half-time: Sutton 1, Wycombe Wanderers 1.

Sutton continued to press and Maskell put on a magnificent performance in Wycombe's goal to keep them at bay.

RESULT:

SUTTON 1
WYCOMBE WANDERERS 1